# **Shoshone National Forest**

Travel Management Planning

## Agenda for Today's Meeting

- Welcome and introductions
- Present the Proposed Action
- Discuss Comment Period
- Review the timeline
- Review Maps of the proposed action

## **Proposed Action**

- The Proposed Action represents the proposals that address the <u>purpose and</u> <u>need</u> for the project.
- All proposals were evaluated using:
  - √Screens (criteria) (from December meeting)
  - ✓ Resource specialist expertise and review
  - √ Field trips
  - ✓ Knowledge of local conditions

## What is the <u>Purpose and Need?</u>

- 1. Provide a system of designated public motor vehicle access routes and areas within the Shoshone National Forest.
- Consider existing resource concerns or enforcement issues.
- Consider some level of additional motorized opportunities; look at opportunities for "loops".
- Improve compliance with the existing road and trail system.
- Designate roads, trails, and areas for winter motorized travel – display on Over Snow Vehicle Use Map.

# <u>Sideboards</u>

- Proposed Action and any alternatives considered will be consistent with the Forest Plan.
- 2. The Shoshone's back country forest character will be maintained.

Consider some level of additional motorized opportunities; look at opportunities for "loops"

\*Adds 36 miles of motorized routes to the system.

\*Increases loop opportunities by 106 miles.

\*Converts 16 miles of existing motorized trails to allow for 65" width (vehicles with a maximum tire pressure of 12 psi, and weigh less than 2,000 lbs.)

Consider some level of additional motorized opportunities; look at opportunities for "loops" (continued)

\*Adds 13.4 miles of new motorized trails for 65" width.

\*Adds 5.9 miles of motorized routes to established disperse camping sites beyond 300' from a system road.

Consider existing resource concerns or enforcement issues

\*Closes 12 miles of roads to address resource and/or enforcement concerns

\*Converts 2.1 miles of road to a motorized trail (65" width) to reduce impacts on resources

Consider existing resource concerns or enforcement issues. (continued)

\*Adds 61 miles of seasonal use restrictions to:

- protect road surfaces during the wet season (reduces maintenance costs)
- reduce wildlife disturbance
- increase wintertime safety

Improve compliance with the existing road and trail system

\*Consolidates the number of different existing seasonal use restriction dates on the North Zone and makes them more consistent across the Zone.

\*Consider ideas from
Travel Management
Compliance Working Group
for improving compliance.

#### Travel Management Working Group

- Formed in response to need for accountability on motorized system.
- Consists of a cross section of users.
- Explore ideas on what steps can be taken in education, enforcement, and infrastructure to improve compliance.

Designate roads, trails, and areas for winter motorized travel

\*Adds 11 miles of ungroomed snowmobile trails.

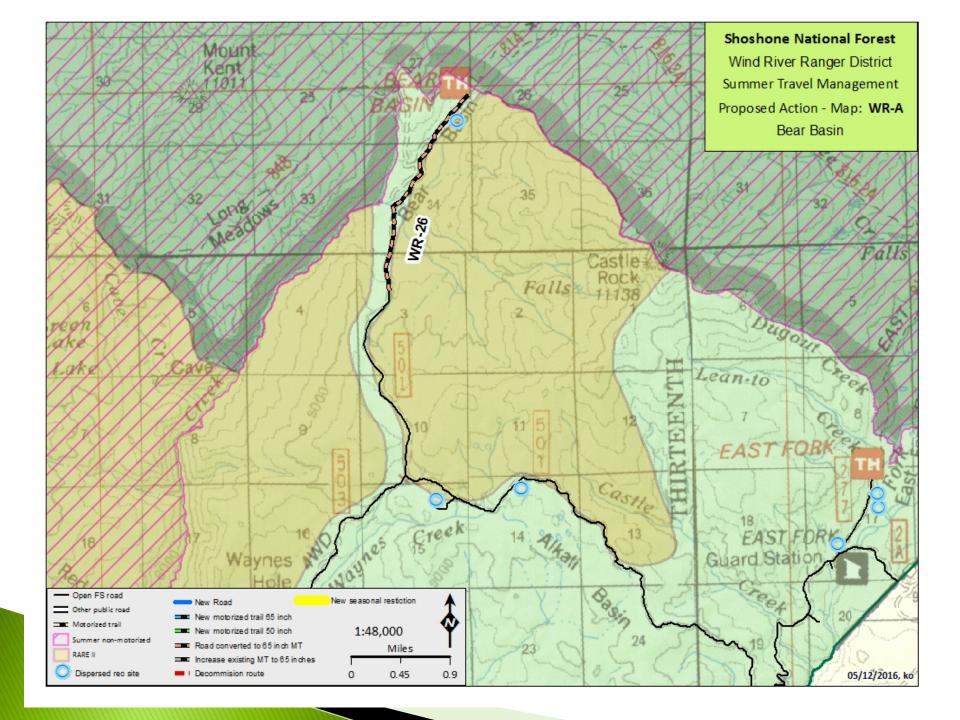
\*Closes 1,354 acres of cross country skiing area to motorized uses.

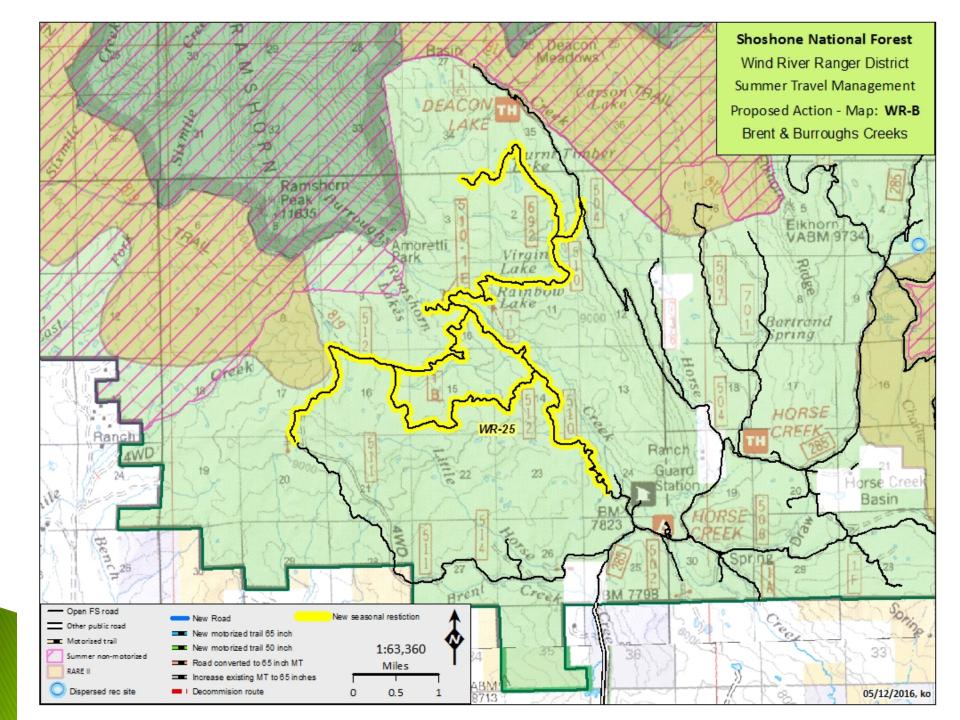
\*Prohibits tracked vehicles larger than a UTV from using groomed trails (for user safety).

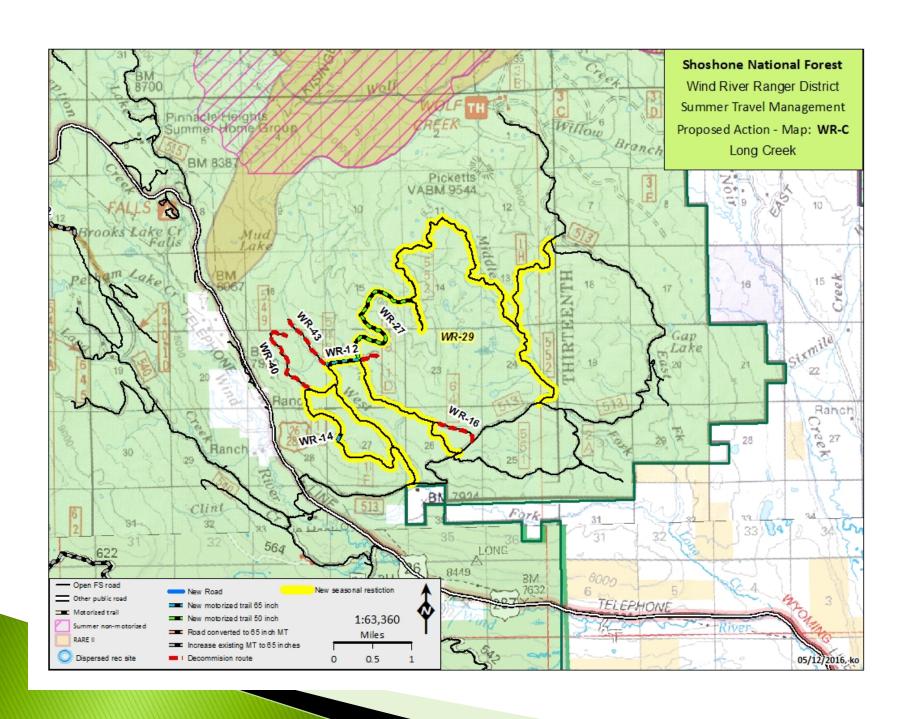
Designate roads, trails, and areas for winter motorized travel (continued)

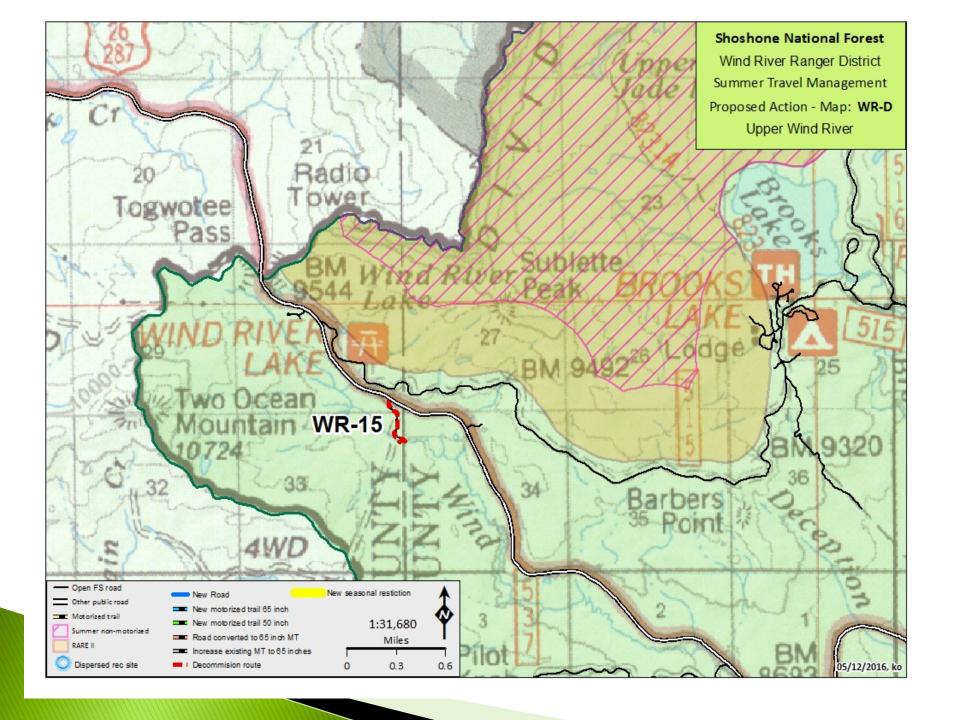
\*Creates two winter motorized seasons:

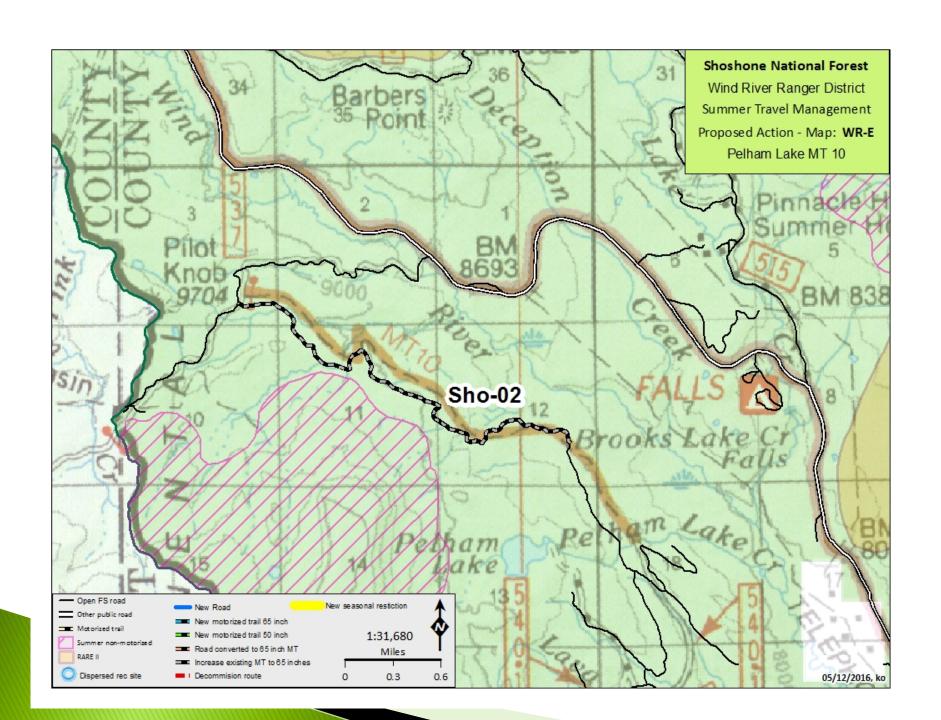
- 1. A "high elevation" zone with a season of 11/15 to 4/30.
- 2. A "low elevation" zone with a season of 12/1 4/1.

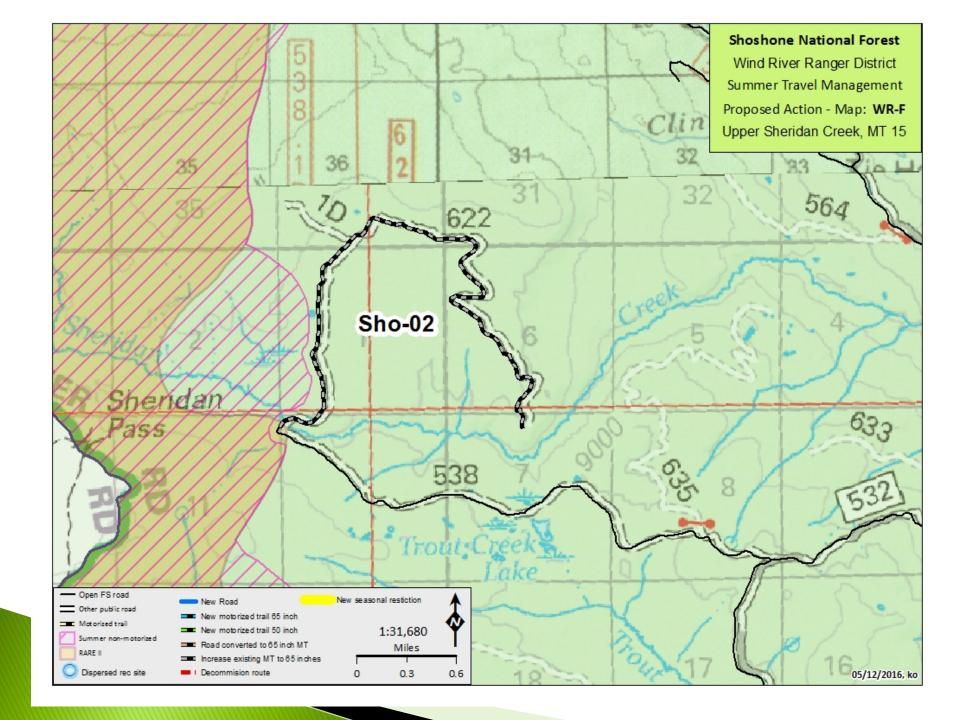


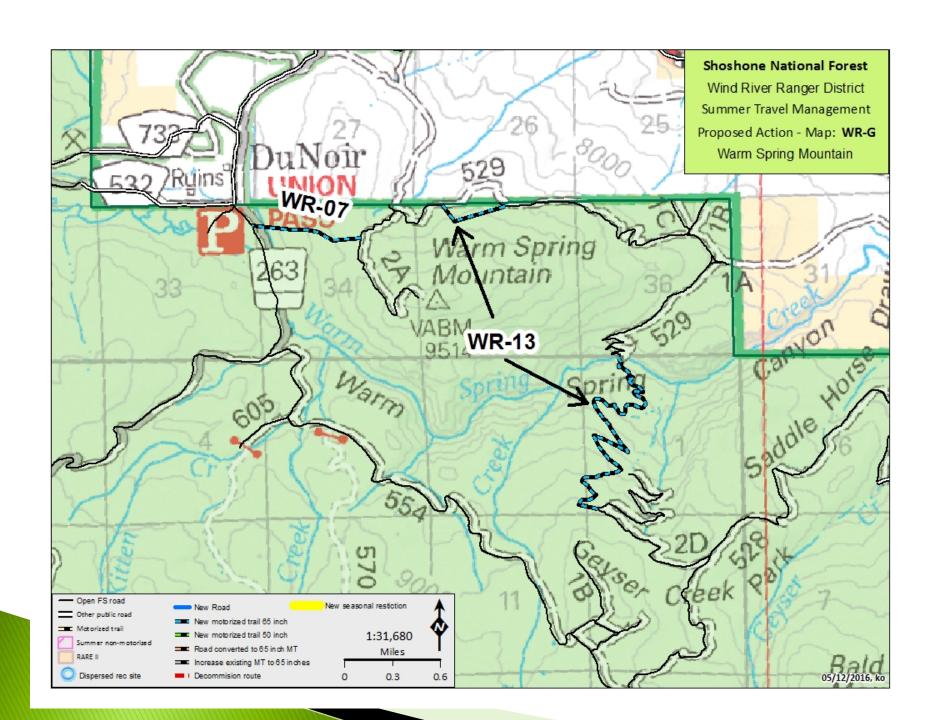


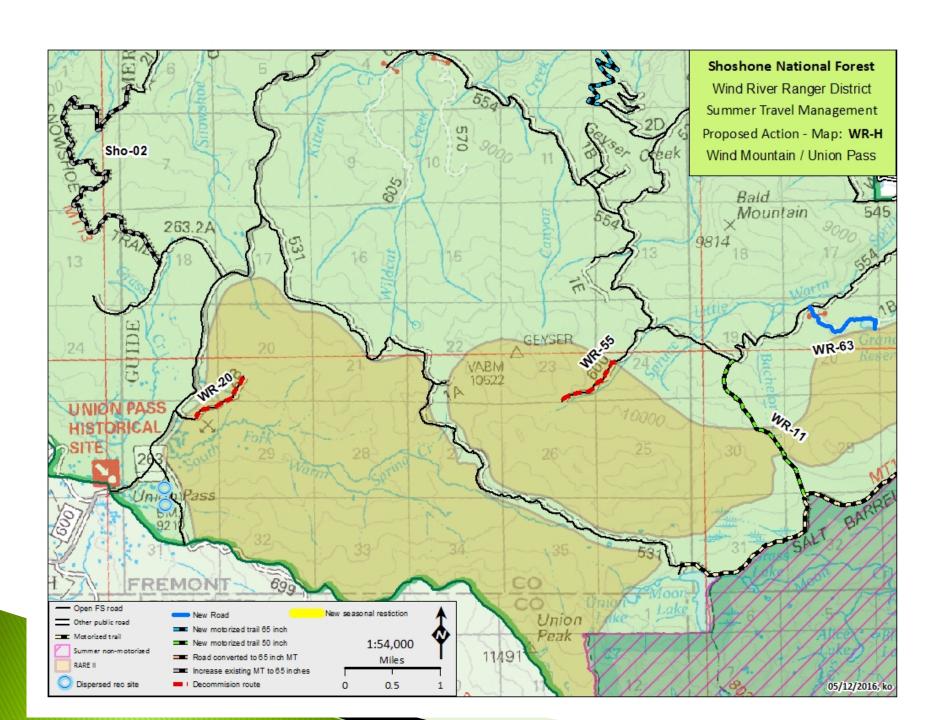












Winter Travel Management, Proposed Action - Wind River RD WR-06W WR-02w WR-03w Birg Proposed winter routes Groomed snowmobile route Ungroomed s now mobile route Proposed area closure Low elevation zone (12/1 to 4/1) High elevation zone (11/15 to 4/30)

## **Comment Period**

# The 30 day comment period will begin May 27<sup>th</sup>

- The most useful comments are specific to the anticipated effects of the proposal (not votes or "I don't like this...")
- Other useful comments address whether the proposal is meeting the stated purpose and need

## **Comment Period**

- We are looking for your help identifying environmental <u>concerns</u> the Forest Service may not have considered.
- Options for other ways of meeting the <u>Purpose and Need</u> that the FS may not have considered.
- The comments will be used to help develop alternatives to the Proposed Action.

#### **How do I Comment?**

#### Comments should be in writing

- Send email comments to email address: travel\_management\_comments@fs.fed.us
- Written comments can be delivered in person to the Supervisor's Office, Wapiti, Washakie, and Wind River District Offices.
- Written comments can be sent to:

Rob Robertson Washakie District Office 333 East Main Street Lander, WY 82520

## Travel Management Timeline

Date	Tasks
May 2016	Proposed Action and Scoping – Start of official Comment Period
Summer 2016	<ul> <li>Develop Alternatives</li> <li>Develop Issues</li> <li>Host field trips, if necessary.</li> <li>Conduct analysis</li> </ul>
Winter 2016/2017	Work on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement
Spring 2017	<ul><li>Issue Draft Environmental Impact Statement</li><li>Host Public Meetings</li></ul>
Summer 2017	<ul> <li>Host Public meetings</li> <li>Host field trips, if necessary.</li> </ul>
Spring 2018	<ul><li>Issue Final Environmental Impact Statement</li><li>Host Public Meetings</li></ul>

## Time to Review Proposed Action Maps

